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# World War I soldier's room untouched for almost 100 years

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By [Nick Kirkpatrick](#) December 29, 2014



The bedroom of French World War I second lieutenant Hubert Rochereau, left intact since his death on the Belgian front. (Guillaume Souvant/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images)

His torn military jacket still hangs by his desk and his shoes are still

hooked neatly by his bed, relics of a life lost long ago. In the small

village of Bêlâbre in central France sits the room of Hubert Rochereau, untouched for nearly a century as a memorial to the fallen soldier, who died during World War I. It's "an unforgettable journey back in time," reported [la Nouvelle République](#), which described it as a "mummified room."

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(Guillaume Souvant/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images)

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Dragoons officer Rochereau died at age 22 inside an English field ambulance after a battle in Belgium on April 26, 1918. [According to the Guardian](#), the officer's parents decided to keep his room exactly as he left it — even after selling the house under the poignant, if legally unenforceable condition the room should not be changed for 500 years.



(Guillaume Souvant/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images)

Laroche, mayor of Bêlâbre, [told](#) the Guardian. The story of Rochereau's room gained notice in October and may help the mayor, who is now seeking a benefactor to ensure that the room will remain as it is for centuries.

Laroche told the Guardian: "Our little village is being spoken about the world over, which makes me proud to be mayor. And maybe it will help us find long-lost Rochereau relatives and save the room. It would be a great pity for it to be lost to future generations."



(Guillaume Souvant/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images)

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